(a) the progress made so far in laying gas pipeline between Bombay and Manmad; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend this pipeline to Aurangabad or Marathwada region?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There is no proposal to lay a gas pipeline between Bombay and Manmad.

(b) Does not arise.

Influx of persons from neighbouring Countries

1627. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the influx of persons from Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the number thereof, country-wise

(c) whether the Government have held any talks with these countries for their repatriation ; and

(d) if so, the number of them repatriated so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a large scale influx, over the years, of Bangladeshi nationals into India; this includes approximately 53,000 Chakama refugee. During 1988, some refugees from Myanmar crossed over to Mizoram and Manipur; during January 1992, over 200 Myanmar Naga refugees crossed into Nagaland. Over 20,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have been in India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees commenced from 20 January, 1992; 4049 refugees were repatriated upto 22 February, 1992 and the repatriation is continuing. Around 00 refugees from Myanmar have already returned to their villages. However, Chakma refugees from Bangladesh have declined to go back as they fear for their safety and security.

Transfer of Cost of Production Scheme on VFC Tobacco

1628. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to transfer the cost of production scheme on VFC Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh to the agro-Economic Research Centre/Tobacco Board was under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision has already been taken to transfer the VFC Tobacco Scheme from Dte. of Tobacco Development Madras to AER Centre, Waltair, Andhra University.

(c) The modalities and other procedural details of the transfer deed are being worked in consultation with all concerned. However, these modalities would depend on the terms conditions of the transfer deed.